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Editorials

CPYRGHT *CIA Under Attack*

Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D., Minn., is one who wants the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to study Central Intelligence Agency practices and results. Seems CIA Director William Raborn is a hard taskmaster who will not tolerate slipshod reports or half-hearted efforts from less dedicated employees.

The nation that would benefit most from a probe is Russia. What better means to destroy the morale of loyal staff members, undermine the effectiveness of the agency, and discredit the CIA's activities and its chief than to propose an investigation?

We must not accept propaganda against Raborn at face value. Schemers from within and without are attacking the CIA for self-serving reasons, and they have ever since the agency was created.

No single agency of our government is more vulnerable to criticism than the CIA. By its very nature it has to displease the enemies of our country, making it easy for all critics to spread untruths of half-truths with great effectiveness.

The cloak and dagger business is not new to this country or to any country. It is new, however, in the minds of a great many Americans who have but recently discovered that the subtle art of spying is conducted under government sanction, even in peacetime.

In our democracy we have the right to question and to inquire about the functions of our agencies. The CIA cannot be allowed to function independent of the rest of the government framework. But its accountability should be limited and it should be secret. Open hearings in the Senate would serve no one but this nation's enemies.

As for us, we believe that the President should make the ultimate decisions about the CIA for he is not only Commander-in-Chief, he is the man who receives and evaluates the agency's daily reports.